

EDGEFIELD SCHOOLS.

McDuffie Literary Society Held Meeting. School Addressed by Dr. Bosmajian, an Armenian Minister.

The McDuffie literary society was called to order by the president Friday afternoon, January 17. The minutes were read and approved and the roll called, after which the regular program followed. Current events, Neta Ouzts. Neta's paper was the most interesting one we have had because the time from the last meeting was five weeks, and her paper consisted of the important events which happened during that time. Also a few high school tips kept the audience in a laughable mood. Reader, Annie Mae Culbreath. The selection this time was description of a "quilting" in the days of long ago, and it was rendered splendidly. Margaret May played a beautiful selection. The most interesting number on the program was a well written essay by Lallie Peak, her subject being "Robert E. Lee." The debate followed: Resolved, "That invention is greater than discovery." Affirmative, Brook Jones, Cleora Thomas. Negative, Willie Peak, Emmie Lou Edmunds. Helen Dorn, Annabel Saunders and Edwin Folk were appointed to act as judges and their decision was rendered in favor of the negative. The subject decided upon for debate at the next meeting was resolved: "That we should have woman suffrage in South Carolina." By a unanimous vote Helen Dorn and Ruth Lyon were received into the society. After the report of the critic the society adjourned to meet February 4.

On last Friday morning the most interesting visitor that we have had in a long time made a talk in chapel. Dr. Bosmajian is an Armenian by birth, but because of the religion in that country, he came to America and intended going back as a missionary to his native people, but after remaining in America for several years he decided not to return. We who have been studying about the Balkan states and keeping up with the war, were delighted to have him tell and show us many of the customs and habits of that land. He visited all the history classes and made talks not only interesting but of great value to the students.

On Monday at one o'clock at the college Dr. Bosmajian lectured to the students. He told of the past and present conditions of the Balkan states, how deficient they were in regard to religion and education, how they lacked the spirit of unity, and to what condition the present war has reduced them. He dressed several of the girls in costumes which he had brought from that country and this gave us an idea as to how the people in that far away land looked. William Hollingsworth donned the apparel of an Armenian bride groom, and Dr. Bosmajian showed us what the marriage ceremony of a heathen people was like. He played several familiar songs on a piccolo, which delighted the children to the utmost, and then he sang several songs in the Armenian language. The admission was ten cents, half of which will go to Dr. Bosmajian and the other half to the school improvement fund.

Don't forget the exercises at the school Wednesday morning at eleven thirty o'clock. The program will be a very interesting one and we feel sure you will enjoy it. No admission.

School Correspondent.

Union Meeting.

The union meeting of the third division will meet with the Plum Branch church.

11 a. m.—Devotional by moderator.

11:30 a. m.—Enrollment of delegates with reports.

1st Query—Do we forgive the erring ones as Jesus did, if not are we right ourselves? J C Morgan, Luther Timmerman.

2nd Query—How can a church rid itself of stumbling blocks and those who cause others to sin? J C Harvelly, J P Nixon.

12:30—Adjournment for dinner.

3rd Query—Can a church member be efficient if he seeks his own glory? L G Bell, J M Bussey.

4th Query—Are the church members making the sacrifices that God expects of them? J G McKie, C Y D Freeland.

Sunday morning, Sunday school in usual order.

Missionary sermon by Rev. J. F. Warren.

Adjournment half past twelve for dinner.

5th Query—Should we discard the Bible because we do not understand all of its mysteries? Dr. W G Blackwell, W R Leggett.

A Sunday school talk by T G Talbert.

H. E. Bunch.

For committee.

Old Soldier Advocates Changes in Payment of Pensions.

I shall bring several charges against the officials of South Carolina, the legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary; for the way they have treated the old veterans. And in doing so, I must go back to the civil war to lay the foundation for the complaint.

Alleged first, South Carolina raised more cain in starting the war than any other State; that is an historic fact known to all America. In January 1861 the war dogs from the mountains to the sea howled for war, saying that the war would be over in three months; that we could whip the whole business with corn stalks. And some went so far as to say that they would drink all the blood spilled, etc. But that class never did get there; and when it came to fire, sweat and blood South Carolina did not do her duty to her soldiers on the field. This is also a fact of history, and I can prove every allegation in the complaint. I use the word South Carolina advisedly. My complaint is to the POWERS that BE, and them only. Very few of those fellows that would drink the blood ever is much as heard the music of the bullet-showers of a battlefield.

My second complaint of indictment is, that South Carolina has signally failed to come up to the other States on the "pension" bill. These men who went to the front and returned with wounded legs, empty sleeves and bullet scars on their bodies are heroes of nobility and patriotism; men who for four years bivouacking on the ground, sleeping on fence rails, marching and fighting in the heat and cold, often pressing the ice and snow with bare and bleeding feet. Now after being benefitted by the storms and conflicts of life, they feel the need of a helping hand. Is this State so poor that she cannot do for her old veterans what other States are doing? No, it's not that. It is another "Pharaoh who knew not Joseph." Another generation that never knew anything of the pain and suffering that follows in the wake of war.

My third complaint is, the property qualification embraced in the pension bill of this State. I take the ground (and I think it tenable), that where a man went into the war, leaving everything that was sacred and dear to him behind, doing his duty in camp or on the battlefield, and got back home, and went to work and accomplished a fortune maybe, by honest toil, he has the same right to a "pension" as the fellow that has never made anything. As I understand it, that is absolutely wrong.

My fourth complaint is, the way the "Old Soldiers' Home" is conducted. I have visited the home often, and it is always the same, as I see it.

And I have said, and now say, that I had rather die in a sheep pasture exposed to the fowls of the air and the beast of the forest, than at that "Home." And yet for 1915 there was an appropriation of nearly \$19,354 to run that institution. There is something dead up the creek—the fountain is not pure. I say in the name of all that is holy abolish the "Home;" give the old soldiers a good pension and let them live among their relatives and friends.

My fifth complaint is the way the Pension Board cuts down the pension of the widows of dead soldiers, and I shall prove this allegation, and will put only two witnesses on the stand, namely J. W. Eidson and G. W. Lott deceased. These men went in the army at the beginning of the war, and better soldiers ever lived or died, members of my Regiment company. G. W. Lott left his leg on the rocky sides of Gettysburg, J. W. Eidson left his on the banks of Chickamauga. They both suffered for years and without any help from the State, finally they both received the small pittance of \$72.09 a year, \$6.00 a month for giving their service and a leg to the State. Listen, six dollars per month, and when these men died, the State Board cut that down to \$20.00 a year, nearly two dollars per month for their widows, everybody knows these widows needed the \$72.00 a great deal more after their bread winners were gone than while they were living. I could tell of numbers who have been treated the same way. And it is a burning shame. Do you say tell it not. No, tell it in "Gath and proclaim it in the streets of Askelon. And from "Dan to Beersheba," and from Beersheba back to "Dan."

The Confederate veterans will be the jury in this case, what say you gentlemen, guilty or not guilty.

J. Russell Wright.

FOR SALE: All improved varieties of strawberry plants now ready, 500 for \$1.25; 1,000 for \$2 f. o. b. Edgefield, S. C. John G. Edwards, M. D., Edgefield, S. C.

Negro Race Conference to Meet in Columbia, Feb'y 6 to 9.

The seventh annual session of the Negro Race Conference of South Carolina, of which Rev. Richard Carroll is president, will meet at the same time the white Laymen's Missionary Conference meets. Railroad Commissioner, Mr. W. H. Fitzgerald, wrote Carroll that the colored delegates to the Negro Race Conference can take advantage of the very low rates granted for the white Laymen's Missionary Conference. These rates are granted to all railroads in South Carolina.

The purpose of the conference has been for the last seven years to stimulate the colored people along industrial, moral and religious lines. The program this year is a very strong one. One whole day, February 8, will be devoted to evangelism, and among the prominent white speakers on that day are Dr. Weston Bruner, of Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga., and Dr. John B. White, of Anderson, S. C.

Col. F. N. K. Bailey, of Greenwood, S. C., and Mr. B. E. Geer, president of Judson Cotton Mills, Greenville, S. C., will address the colored laymen on February 9.

Among the colored preachers who are to speak on evangelism are Dr. C. T. Walker, of Augusta, Ga., J. C. Clement, editor of Star of Zion, Rev. J. M. Green, D. D., Greenville, S. C. Subjects will be discussed on the church and sanitation. Dr. H. M. Green, of Knoxville, Tenn., a physician who has had quite a success in the cure of pellagra, will address the conference on the 8th.

Special arrangements have been made for school teachers to hold sessions Friday night, February 4, Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 at Benedict College. This will enable the negro school teachers to attend the conference and not be away from their schools. Dr. B. F. Riley (white), of Birmingham, Ala., author of "The White Man's Burden," will speak to the teachers. Dr. J. H. Dillard, secretary of the Jeanes Fund Board, of Charlottesville, Va., and Mr. Swearingin, superintendent of Public Schools, City of Columbia, have been invited to address the teachers.

Samuel J. Stafford, a negro of Tennessee, who has made money raising Berkshire hogs, is on the program to speak on hog raising and prevention of hog cholera. W. F. Coleman, of Kershaw county, a successful negro farmer, will tell how he makes a bale of cotton per acre on sandy soil.

Carroll has a large number of jubilee singers, who will sing during the conference under the management of J. A. Smiley, evangelistic singer of Louisville, Ky. Richard Carroll is anxious that the white readers of this journal will inform the colored preachers, and especially the laymen and farmers in their districts, to attend this conference, as this conference for the last seven years has been very helpful in making the colored people more useful and better citizens.

All information concerning the conference can be had by addressing I. S. Leevy, 1221 Taylor St., Columbia, S. C., or

Richard Carroll, President.

There is no Substitute for Potash.

We are being repeatedly asked for a substitute for potash in the fertilizers for 1916. We regret that we know of none. It is true that certain methods of handling the soil may make more of the potash already in the soil available for feeding the plants; but it is too late now to bring about those results. If for the last ten years our soils had been fed with stable manure or crops turned under, as they should have been, we might now be able to get along better without potash.

On most of the clay and clay loam soils, especially from Alabama westward, generally crops like cotton, corn, etc., will not be seriously affected by the fact that the fertilizers contain little potash. On the southeastern soils, especially for crops like tobacco and truck, the scarcity of potash is a much more serious matter.

Lime is being recommended as a substitute for potash, on the ground that it will set free the potash already in the soil; but to what extent lime will do this is not clear, nor are all those who assume to know agreed as to the extent potash will be set free by the use of lime. It is quite generally a good practice to use lime on southern soils, but it is doubtful if it should be done with the expectation of its setting free sufficient potash on those soils where past experience has shown that applications of potash are necessary to produce satisfactory crops.—Progressive Farmer.

FOR SALE—My house and lot on Columbia street. Terms can be arranged. Mrs. S. A. Morrall, Edgefield, S. C.

Clark's Hill and Meriwether Take on New Life With The New Year.

My, how busy the wood wagons are around Clark's Hill to Meriwether! Mr. John G. McKie and Frank Middleton seem to be the wood kings. They keep the road full of wagons every day and are delighted to see the cold spell which calls for wood. He who wants wood can get it on short notice.

We have other things here besides the wooden ones. There is John G. McKie, Jr., who will soon have placed on the C. and W. C. right of way 2,000 oak cross ties. Think of \$1,000 before any cotton is planted, what does he care about potash from Germany?

The grain crop is looking so well. Wheat, oats, and rye all over our hills hold them together. Some clover and alfalfa patches are here also.

Farmers are getting ready for planting, not that they are going to plant in the next few days but have decided to get their land in good shape. Briers and bushes are being cut and gullies filled. Some ten or fifteen thousand peach trees have been put out this fall and some lettuce is being put out for market. The strawberry patches are looking well.

Some of our men will go to McCormick tomorrow to indulge in the auction sale of town lots. We hate to leave our good friends in old Edgefield but McCormick is calling to us to come. We do not know what will be the outcome.

Do you remember Mr. G. O. Whalley? You would not know him now, My, how he has grown since the arrival of G. O. Jr., on Christmas eve. He feels like he is the biggest man and has the finest boy in all the world. We have been looking for him to come out to Sunday school and let us enroll the boy's name but not so. He will not leave the boy for one minute, not even to wait on a custom.

Mrs. G. B. Satterwhite and little Frank who have been visiting Mrs. S. T. Adams left last week for Greenville, York and points in Virginia. From here she will go to her home in Iowa.

Mrs. S. T. Adams is spending this week in Augusta with friends. Poor Sam is at home keeping batch and has quite a plenty of it too. Great will be the day for him when she returns.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Fouchee spent the week-end with friends in Meriwether and Clark's Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Walton and sweet little Frank, the brightest girl in Clark's Hill, spent Sunday with Mr. Walton's brother, at Evans, Ga.

Dr. J. B. Adams of Plum Branch was among us one day last week driving one of those great Fords.

Mrs. Eugenia Middleton, whom we all love and miss so much at Sunday school, is with her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Luke of Augusta.

Mrs. Mattie Jones of Macon, Ga., is visiting cousins here, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Baxley.

We were told at Meriwether this morning by the man that has contract for sawing the lumber for Meriwether depot that it would be loaded on cars tomorrow. Guess we will have to mark or bell H. A. Adams or we will never find him in a large depot. He has been in a little box car so long.

Miss Nola Rawls, one of our bright young girls, got married last week to Mr. White of Alabama. We regret very much to give her up but could not help ourselves.

Clark's Hill, S. C.

FOR SALE—2 young home-raised horses. For terms apply to T. E. Miller, Colliers, S. C. 1-19-2t.

RENT—To rent or work on shares to white or colored, a 2-horse farm. Address B. F. Landrum, Enreka, Aiken county, S. C.

FOR SALE—A No. 6 Liddell saw mill, 48-inch diston saw, a yoke of good oxen five years old, good engine and boiler. Apply to H. J. Turner, Johnston, S. C., R. F. D. 4.

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